COMMANDERS DIGEST

VOL. 15, NO. 4/JANUARY 24, 1974

Armed Forces Absentee Voting

Voting—a Year-'round Concern

The Federal Voting Assisistance Program is a continuing, multiagency Federal effort to help eligible voters, in the categories listed below, register and vote by absentee process in their home States' primary, general, and special elections:

- Members of the Armed Forces while in the active Service, and their spouses and dependents;
- Members of the U.S. Merchant Marine, and their spouses and dependents; and
- U.S. citizens who are temporarily residing outside the territorial limits of the United States and the District of Columbia, and their spouses and dependents when residing with or accompanying them.

Background

Implemented by the President and supervised by the Secretary of Defense as Presidential designee, the Federal Voting Assistance Program is based on Public Law 296, 84th Congress, entitled "The Federal Voting Assistance Act of 1955." This Act recommended to the States that they enact or amend election laws "to permit and assist Federal personnel, including Armed Forces members and members of their families, to exercise their voting franchise. . . ."

In 1968, this Act was amended to extend the absentee voting privilege to all U.S. citizens temporarily residing outside the territorial limits of the United States and the District of Columbia, and their spouses and dependents when residing with or accompanying them. In 1972, an estimated 4 million U.S. citizens (including Service personnel and their spouses and dependents) were absent from their home States and local polling places at the time of the general election. This absentee-voter group constituted about 3.87 percent of the total U.S. population eligible to vote.

The Federal Voting Assistance Act

In summary, the Congress made the following recommendations to the States through the 1955 and 1968 enactments:

- That the Federal Post Card Application for absentee ballot (FPCA—Standard Form 76) be accepted from persons covered by the Act as an application for an absentee ballot under State election law.
- That all voter registration requirements under State election law be satisfied for the persons covered under the Act by any of the following procedures:
  - —Waive registration,
  - —Accept the FPCA submitted as an application for a ballot as a simultaneous application for registration,
  - Send State registration forms with the absentee ballot if it is necessary that a State registration form be completed;
- That all oaths required by State law be administered and attested for persons covered under the Act by:
  - —Any commissioned officer in the active service of the Armed Forces,
  - —Any member of the U.S. Merchant Marine designated for this purpose by the Secretary of Commerce,
  - —Any civilian official empowered by State or Federal law to administer oaths,
  - —The head or any department or agency of the U.S. or any civilian employee designated by the head of any department or agency of the U.S.
- That persons who have been honorably discharged from the Armed Forces or have terminated their service or employment too late to register at the time and place where registration is required, be allowed to vote in the election next ensuing after such discharge or termination;
- That voting instructions be included with an absentee ballot.
- That balloting material be mailed to and from the persons covered by the Act in an envelope authorized for free air mail postage under the Act;
- That absentee ballots be made available for mailing to the applicant as soon as practicable before the last day on which such ballot will be counted; and
- That any person covered by the Act who is otherwise fully qualified to register and vote in a State, be allowed to acquire a residence for voting in that State, notwithstanding that the person resides on a military installation.

Objectives

The objectives of the Federal Voting Assistance Program are:

- To assist all eligible military personnel, members of the Merchant Marine, and their spouses and

dependents, and all U.S. citizens temporarily residing overseas to register and vote by absentee process;

- To assist the 50 States, District of Columbia, and the U.S. Territories to take legislative or administrative action to enable qualified voters who are absent from their voting residences to vote by absentee process; and
- To obtain essential voting information from the States, District of Columbia, and the Territories and to disseminate it to all persons covered by the Federal Voting Assistance Act.

Executive Responsibilities Designation

Executive Order 10646, dated November 22, 1955, designated the Secretary of Defense as the person responsible for coordinating and facilitating the Federal Voting Assistance Program. This order also empowered the Secretary of Defense to redelegate ". . . functions, responsibilities, powers, authority, or discretion devolving upon him . . ." to any person within DoD to discharge Federal responsibilities under the 1955 Federal Voting Assistance Act.

Accordingly, the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Manpower and Reserve Affairs) was named by the Secretary of Defense as Coordinator of the Federal Voting Assistance Program. The Director of the Office of Information for the Armed Forces, OASD(M&RA), was named Deputy Coordinator of the Program. In early 1970, a Federal Voting Assistance Task Force was formed, made up of Joint-Service staff members, to carry out the program functions of the Federal Voting Assistance Act, as amended.

Federal Responsibilities

Absentee Voting Information. A vital element of the entire voting assistance program is the gathering of current, absentee voting information from the chief elections official of every State by the Federal Voting Assistance Task Force (now designated Federal Voting Assistance Division). This information includes election dates; officers to be elected; constitutional amendments and any other proposals to be voted on; and absentee registration and voting procedures, plus deadlines, that the individual must adhere to or observe.

Dissemination of Voting Information. A major effort is continuously made by the Coordinator of the Federal Voting Assistance Program to disseminate current absentee voting information throughout the Executive Branch of Government and to those U.S. citizens temporarily residing overseas who are not Federally employed. Essential to the thorough dissemination of information are:

- Voting action plans, developed and disseminated by the Federal Voting Assistance Division in coordination with the senior voting representatives of the Military Services, who are general or flag officers. These plans are provided the Military Services for guidance in conducting motivational campaigns urging Armed Forces personnel to register and vote by absentee process.
- Informational support plans, which are issued to the Military Services along with voting action plans to indicate DoD schedules of production and distribution of voting information materials; and
- Voting information materials, which are produced to acquaint the Service voter with essential election facts as described in **Absentee Voting Information** above. Basic to the success of any voting campaign is the distribution worldwide of the DoD Pamphlet, **Voting Assistance Guide** (DoD GEN-6E).

In addition, voting information is imparted to the military voter through posters, Armed Forces newspaper articles and features distributed through the American Forces Press Service (AFPS) and through broadcasts overseas by American Forces Radio and Television Service (AFRTS) networks and stations. Brochures, pamphlets, and fact sheets are also published.

Voting information requiring rapid dissemination, including fast-breaking changes in election dates or procedures, reaches AFRTS outlets by voice, teletype, and photo facsimile, using shortwave, satellite, and other direct communications circuits. Voting bulletins are also used to update published material.

Liaison With Other Federal Agencies. The Federal Voting Assistance Act authorizes the Secretary of Defense, as Presidential designee, to request assistance from other Executive Branch agencies and departments to carry out the functions of the program. The agencies and departments participate in the Federal Voting Assistance Program and conduct their individual programs to aid personnel under their cognizance who are covered by the Act.

At the request of the Secretary of Defense as Presidential designee, the Attorney General cooperates with and advises the Council of State Governments in the formulation of drafts of State legislation designed to implement the Act's recommendations.

The General Services Administration prints and distributes to requesting agencies the Federal Post Card Application for Absentee Ballot (FPCA —Standard Form 76). The Federal Voting Assistance Act requires that these forms be in the hands of persons covered by the Act not later than August 15 (if overseas) or not later than September 15 (if within the territorial limits of the United States) prior to a general election.

The Department of State provides voting assistance to more than 1.4 million U.S. citizens temporarily residing abroad in more than 130 countries, through the services of voting officers appointed by principal diplomatic and consular officers at each Foreign Service post. Citizens in this category are other than Armed Forces members, and include U.S. Government employees of various agencies and their dependents, other American residents, and tourists.

Liaison With States

Liaison between the Federal Government and the States is maintained so that progress made by the latter in adopting recommendations of the Federal Voting Assistance Act may be made a part of a report which, under the terms of the Act, must be submitted to the President and the Congress biennially.

Voting Information—1974 Primary Elections

State	Primary Election Date	Runoff (2d) Primary Election Date (if required)	Officials To Be Nominated For The General Election			
			Federal		State, Territorial, & D.C.	
			U.S. Senator	U.S. Representative(s)	Governor	Other (list not necessarily inclusive)
Alabama	May 7, 1974	June 4	Yes	7	Yes	LG, AG, AU, CA, CO, DA, J(A)SSC, JCCA, JCOC, PSCA, SBE, SEN, SR, SS, T(See key below)*
Alaska	August 27	—	Yes	1 at large	Yes	LG, SEN, SR
Arizona	September 10	—	Yes	4	Yes	SCC, SED, SMI, STC
Arkansas	May 28	June 11	Yes	4	Yes	CNO, CO, JDSSC, SEN, SR
California	June 4	—	Yes	43	Yes	LG, AG, JSMJC, JSSAC, SA, SBEQ, SEN, SPI, SS, T
Colorado	September 10	—	Yes	5	Yes	LG, AG, CO, JCA, JDJ, JSSC, RUC, SBE, SEN, SR SS, T
Connecticut	To be determined #	—	Yes	6	Yes	LG, AG, CO, COMP, SEN, SR, SS, T
Delaware	September 7	—	No	1 at large	No	AC, AG, CLO, IC, SEN, SR, T
District Of Columbia	May 7	May 28	—	1 Delegate to House of Representatives	—	None
Florida	September 10	October 1	Yes	15	Yes	LG, AG, CA, CE, CFPSC, CO, COMP, JCCC, JDCA, JSSC, SEN, SR, SS, T
Georgia	August 13	September 3	Yes	10	Yes	LG, AG, CA, CL, CO, COMPGEN, DA, J, MGA, PSC, SS, SSS
Guam	September 7	—	—	—	Yes	LG, ML
Hawaii	October 5	—	Yes	2	Yes	LG, CLO, SBM, SEN, SR
Idaho	August 6	—	Yes	2	Yes	LG, AG, AU, SPI, SS, T
Illinois	March 19	—	Yes	24	No	CO, JCC, JCA, SEN, SR, T
Indiana	May 7	—	Yes	11	No	AU, CLO, SEN, SR, SS, T
Iowa	June 4	—	Yes	6	Yes	LG, AG, AU, CLO, SEN, SOA, SR, SS, T
Kansas	August 6	—	Yes	5	Yes	LG, AG, CI, CO, JDC, JSSC, SBE, SP, SR, SS, T
Kentucky	May 28	—	Yes	7	No	CO
Louisiana	August 17	September 28	Yes	8	No	J(A)SSC, JCA, PSC, SBE, SBM
Maine	June 11	—	No	2	Yes	CO, SEN, SR
Maryland	September 10	—	Yes	8	Yes	LG, AG, CO, COMP, HD, J, SEN
Massachusetts	September 17	—	No	12	Yes	LG, AG, AU, DA, EC, CO, SC, SEN, SR, T
Michigan	August 6	—	No	19	Yes	LG, AG, CLO, GWSU, J, RGUM, SBE, SEN, SR, SS, TMSU
Minnesota	September 10	—	No	8	Yes	LG, AG, AU, CLO, JSSC, SR, SS, T

AC	**Auditor of Accounts**	**CI**	**Commissioner of Insurance**	**GT**	**General Treasurer**
ADJG	**Adjutant General**	**CJ**	**Chief Justice**	**GWSU**	**Governors, Wayne State University**
AG	**Attorney General**	**CL**	**Commissioner of Labor**	**HD**	**Members, House of Delegates**
APC	**Auditor of Public Accounts**	**CLO**	**County & Local Officials**	**IC**	**Insurance Commissioner**
AU	**Auditor**	**CN**	**Controller**	**J**	**Judges**
BE	**Members, Board of Education**	**CNO**	**Constitutional Officers**	**J(A)SSC**	**Associate Justice(s), State Supreme Court**
BEL	**Members, Board of Elections**	**CO**	**County Officials**	**JCA**	**Judge(s), Court(s) of Appeals**
BR	**Members, Board of Regents**	**COMP**	**Comptroller**	**JCC**	**Judge(s), Circuit Court**
CA	**Commissioner of Agriculture**	**COMPGEN**	**Comptroller General**	**JCCA**	**Judge(s), Court of Civil Appeals**
CBL	**Commissioner, Bureau of Labor**	**CPL**	**Commissioner of Public Lands**	**JCCC**	**Judges, Circuit & County Courts**
CE	**Commissioner of Education**	**CRC**	**Corporation Commissioner(s)**	**JCHC**	**Judges, Chancery Court(s)**
CFPSC	**Commissioners, Florida Public Service Commission**	**CS&PL**	**Commissioner of Schools & Public Lands**	**JCOC**	**Judge(s), Court of Criminals**
		DA	**District Attorneys**		
		DS	**District Solicitors**		
		EC	**Executive Councillor**		

Mississippi	June 4	June 25	No	5	No	JCCC, JCHC, JFC
Missouri	August 6	—	Yes	10	No	AU, CO, SEN, SR
Montana	June 4	—	No	2	No	CLO, J(A)SSC, PSC, SEN, SR
Nebraska	May 14	—	No	3	Yes	LG, AG, APC, BR, CJ, CLO, JDC, JS, PSC, SBE, SL, SS, T
Nevada	September 3	—	Yes	1 at large	Yes	LG, AG, CN, JSSC, SA, SEN, SS, T, UR
New Hampshire	September 10	—	Yes	2	Yes	CLO, SEN, SR
New Jersey	June 4	—	No	15	No	LO
New Mexico	June 4	—	No	2	Yes	LG, AG, AU, CLO, CPL, CRC, JCA, JSSC, SEN, SR, SS, T
New York	June 18**	—	Yes	39	Yes	LG, AG, COMP, LO, SA, SEN
North Carolina	May 7	June 4	Yes	11	No	CO, DS, JCA, JDC, JSC, JSSC, SEN, SR
North Dakota	September 3	—	Yes	1 at large	No	CL, CO, JDC, JDSSC, PSC, SEN, SR
Ohio	May 7	—	Yes	23	Yes	LG, AG, AU, CO, CJ, JCA, JS, SBE, SEN, SR, SS, T
Oklahoma	August 27	September 17	Yes	6	Yes	JO, SL, SO
Oregon	May 28	—	Yes	4	Yes	CBL, CO, DA, JCC, JDC, JDSCC, SEN, SPI, SR
Pennsylvania	May 21	—	Yes	25	Yes	LG, SEN, SR
Puerto Rico	No Primary Or General Elections Will Be Held Until 1976					
Rhode Island	September 10	—	No	2	Yes	LG, AG, GT, SEN, SR, SS
South Carolina	June 11	June 25	Yes	6	Yes	LG, ADJG, AG, CA, COMPGEN, SR, SS, T
South Dakota	June 4	—	Yes	2	Yes	LG, AG, AU, CO, CS&PL, PUC, SEN, SR, SS, T
Tennessee	August 1	—	No	8	Yes	PSC, SEN, SR
Texas	May 4	June 1	No	24	Yes	LG, AG, CLO, LC, SEN, SR
Utah	September 10	—	Yes	2	No	CO, SEN, SR
Vermont	September 10	—	Yes	1 at large	Yes	LG, AC, AG, SEN, SR SS, T
Virginia	June 11	—	No	10	No	None
Virgin Islands	July 2	—	—	1 Delegate to House of Representatives	Yes	LG, BE, BEL, SEN
Washington	September 17	—	Yes	7	No	JCA, JSSC, SEN, SR
West Virginia	May 14	—	No	4	No	HD
Wisconsin	September 10	—	Yes	9	Yes	LG, AG, CO, SA, SEN, SS, T
Wyoming	August 20	—	No	1 at large	Yes	AU, SEN, SPI, SR, SS, T

*Key to identification of "Other Officials":

#Connecticut has a postendorsement, challenge-type primary law. Whether party primaries will be held will not be known until State and district conventions are held sometime between June 1 and July 15.
**New York does not permit absentee voting in primary elections.

JDC Judge(s), District Court(s)
JDCA Judges, District Courts of Appeal
JDJ Judicial District Judges
JDSSC Judge(s), State Supreme Court
JFC Judges, Family Court
JO Judicial Officers
JS Justices
JSC Judge(s), Superior Court
JSMJC Judges, Superior, Municipal & Justice Courts
JSSAC Justices, State Supreme & Appellate Courts
LG Lieutenant Governor
LO Local Officials
MGA Members of the General Assembly
PSC Public Service Commissioner(s)
PSCA Associate Members of Public Service Commission
PUC Public Utilities Commissioners
RGUM Regents, University of Michigan
RUC Regents, University of Colorado
SA Members, State Assembly
SBE Members, State Board of Education
SBEQ Members, State Board of Equalization
SBM School Board Members
SC Secretary of the Commonwealth
SCC State Corporation Commissioner
SED Officers, State Executive Department
SEN State Senators
SL State Legislators
SMI State Mine Inspector
SO State Officers
SOA Secretary of Agriculture
SP State Printer
SPI Superintendent of Public Instruction
SR State Representatives
SS Secretary of State
SSS State School Superintendent
STC State Tax Commissioner
T State Treasurer
TMSU Trustees, Michigan State University
UR University Regents

MARCH:

March 1974—designated "Military Voter Registration Month" by the Department of Defense—will witness the beginning of the Armed Forces' voting assistance activities, which will culminate in the general election November 5.

In March, military voters from certain States should be informed that they must be registered before election officials can send an absentee ballot for either a primary or general election. These States are **Alabama, Alaska, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, Nevada and West Virginia.**

The states not listed either do not require registration for members of the Armed Forces on active duty or let them satisfy any registration requirement by (1) registering them from the FPCA used to request a ballot for an election, or (2) by mailing state registration forms to them with an absentee ballot, or (3) by utilizing an affidavit on the ballot-return envelope as the registration document. The DoD Voting Assistance Guide outlines state registration requirements for every State, the District of Columbia, Guam, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands.

Registration rules or guidelines are

U.S. Voters Overseas Vague About Proper Election Procedures

Of those U.S. citizens abroad who did not vote in the November 1972 general election, 41.8 percent stated that they were not sure of the proper procedures to follow in order to register and vote; 7.6 percent said they lacked "pro-and-con" views and information about candidates and/or issues; 6.1 percent indicated they lacked information about election dates; and 30.3 percent said they lacked information concerning application deadlines.

Of this group of citizens who voted while temporarily residing overseas, more than 47 percent used the Federal Post Card Application (FPCA) to request their absentee ballots, while others corresponded. The FPCA, authorized by law, is sent airmail, free of charge, to election officials. Conversely, absentee ballots sent by election officials in response are given the same Federal mailing privilege.

Within a total of 216,400 persons who requested an absentee ballot, 12.7 percent received ballots, but not in time to vote them and return them before election deadlines. Seventeen and one-tenth percent of the total who requested absentee ballots did not receive them from election officials, and 3.8 percent of the total received their ballots in time, but chose not to vote them.

Approximately one-fourth of the non - Federally - employed eligible U.S. citizens residing abroad voted in the November 1972 general election ,according to results of a survey completed for the Defense Department in cooperation with the Department of State.

The survey indicated that about 630,000 U.S. citizens residing outside the territorial limits of the United States and the District of Columbia were eligible to vote—based on age, U.S. citizenship, and legal residence for voting. Of that total, about 151,000 voted by absentee process. Total number of non-Federally employed U.S. citizens living overseas at election time was about 1,005,000.

Most of those citizens eligible to vote were in the 25-54 age bracket. Total distribution of voters by age was:

Age	Eligible to Vote	
	Number	Percent
18-20	23,400	3.7
21-24	37,100	5.9
25-34	132,700	21.1
35-44	151,100	24.0
45-54	122,900	19.5
55-64	89,100	14.1
Over 64	74,000	11.7
Total	630,300	100.0

Distribution of voters who actually voted, by age, was:

Age	Eligible to Vote	
	Number	Percent
18-20	9,600	6.4
21-24	17,400	11.5
25-34	33,800	22.4
35-44	37,000	24.5
45-54	26,000	17.2
55-64	18,900	12.5
Over 64	8,300	5.5
Total	151,000	100.0

VOTING REGISTRATION MONTH

summarized below for each of the pre-registration States. While State registration deadlines are listed for those States which have specified them, a voter may apply for registration anytime during the year by writing to the appropriate election official. The registration books are generally closed 30 days prior to an election (in Georgia—50 days).

The Federal Post Card Application (FPCA)—Standard Form 76—is the type of ballot and registration request most generally used. After completing registration, the voter may submit another completed FPCA to ensure that an absentee ballot request is received by the proper election official.

ALABAMA—Voters are registered by the County Board of Registrars, county of residence. To register, obtain a state registration questionnaire from your county board by submitting a completed FPCA (indicate in Item (6) "Request registration forms"). While no specific deadline for registration has been set, an applicant should complete registration well in advance of Alabama's May 7 primary in order to obtain, vote, and return an absentee ballot before the election deadline.

ALASKA—To register by mail, complete an FPCA, entering in Item (6) "Request registration forms." Mail FPCA to the Lieutenant Governor, Pouch AF, Juneau 99801, so that application is postmarked at least 30 days before Alaska's August 27 primary or the general election.

FLORIDA—Voter registration is conducted by the Supervisor of Elections, county of residence. A completed FPCA should be sent to this official in sufficient time to request a registration application and to compete registration prior to 30 days before the September 10 primary or the general election.

GEORGIA—The Board of Registrars, county of residence, conducts voter registration. To register, submit a completed FPCA to the Board indicating in Item (6) "Request registration forms." The completed form must be received by the Board at least 50 days prior to the August 13 primary or the general election.

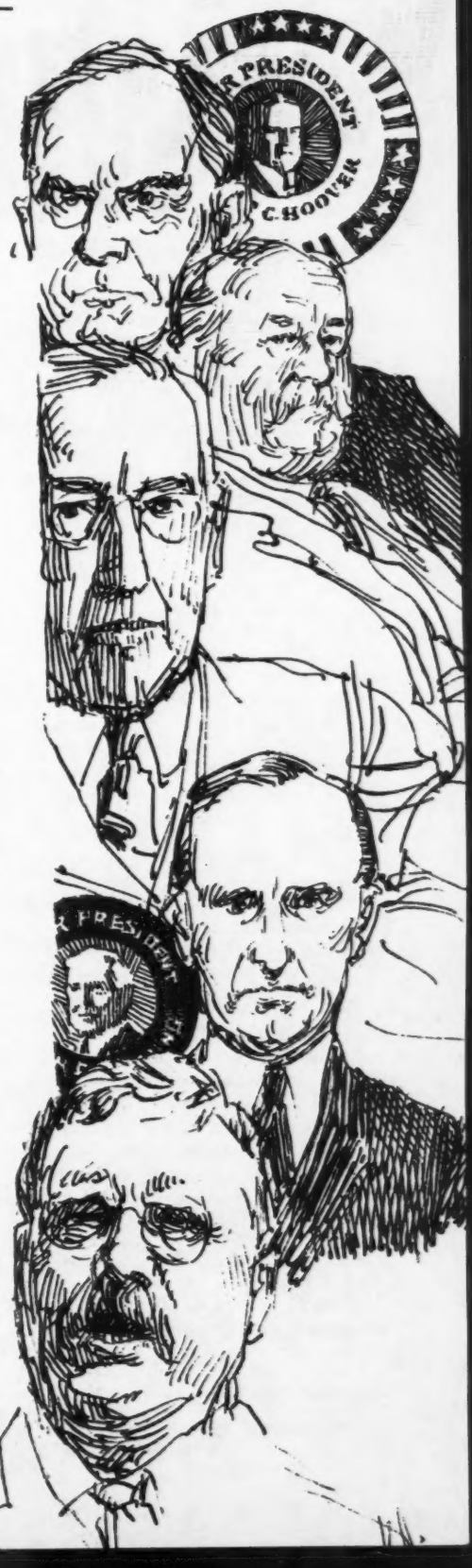
KENTUCKY—Voter registration is conducted by the County Clerk, county of residence (if a resident of Louisville, by the Board of Registration Commissioners). Send completed FPCA to the County Clerk (or Board of Election Commissioners of Louisville), requesting a registration form in Item (6). Return completed form to reach election official at least 30 days before the May 28 primary or the general election.

LOUISIANA—The Registrar of Voters, parish of residence, conducts voter registration. Send completed FPCA to the Registrar, indicating in Item (6) "Request registration forms." Completed forms must be returned to the Registrar before registration books are closed (30 days before the election). Primary election will be held August 17.

MISSISSIPPI—Voter registration is conducted by the City Registrar, place of residence, or by the County Registrar of each county of residence. Send completed FPCA to appropriate official, indicating "Request registration application" in Item (6). Completed application must be returned to reach election officials prior to 30 days before the election. Primary election will be held June 4.

NEVADA—The Board of Registrars or the County Clerk, county of residence, conducts voter registration. Obtain an "Affidavit of Registration" form by sending a completed FPCA to the appropriate election official. Return the completed affidavit to reach the official at least 30 days prior to the September 3 primary or the general election.

WEST VIRGINIA—Voter registration is conducted by the Clerk of the County Court, county of residence. Obtain an "Application for Registration" from the clerk by sending a completed FPCA. Return completed application to reach the clerk not later than 30 days prior to the May 14 primary or the general election.



COME VOTING TIME WHO'S ELIGIBLE?

Forty-seven and six-tenths percent of eligible Armed Forces voters on active duty cast their ballots in the 1972 general election, according to Department of Defense survey findings.

Of a total of 2,170,291 eligible Service members, 1,032,321 voted either by absentee process or by personal appearance at the polls November 7, 1972.

The survey indicated that 54.1 percent of Federal employees serving outside the territorial limits of the United States and the District of Columbia cast their ballots. In another survey, conducted for the Department of Defense in cooperation with the Department of State, it was found that 24 percent of non-Federally-employed U.S. citizens overseas voted.

All categories of persons surveyed—Armed Forces members, Federal employees overseas, and other U.S. citizens temporarily overseas—are covered by the Federal Voting Assistance Act of 1955, as amended.

Under this law, a Federal Voting Assistance Program was established to permit the categories of persons listed above to cast their ballots while absent from home polling places. The Department of Defense coordinates this program, which entails the gathering of voting information from the States, Territories, the District of Columbia, and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico; disseminating such information to absentee voters; and assisting the various States, Territories, and other jurisdictions to simplify absentee voting procedures to permit their qualified voters to register and cast their ballots by mail.

The survey also indicated that before the 1972 general election, about 20 percent of Service persons eligible to vote were in the 18-20 age bracket; 35.9 percent were in the 21-25 group; 15 percent were in the 26-30 group; 22 percent were 31-40, and 6.1 percent were over 41 years of age. Only one percent of the total eligible Service personnel were under 18.

A distribution of Service voters by age indicated that 33.9 percent of the 18-20 group voted; 43.6 percent of the 21-25 group voted; 58.1 percent of those 26-30 voted; 54.8 percent of those 31-40 voted; and 64.9 percent of those 41 years of age or older voted.

Within the Federally employed civilian group overseas, 23,240 out of 42,958 who were eligible voted. In this civilian category, 2.8 percent were in the 18-20 age bracket; 7.8 percent were in the 21-25 group; 11 percent were between 26-30; 25.7 percent were in the 31-40 group, and 52.6 percent were over 41. Less than .2 percent of these civilians were under 18.

In terms of participation, approximately 30.3 percent of the Federal civilian employees overseas in the 18-20 age group voted; 60.7 percent in the 21-25 group voted; 55.9 percent of those 26-30 voted; 54.9 percent of those 31-40 voted, and 53.4 percent of those 41 and older voted.

The survey of non-Federally employed U.S. citizens residing outside the territorial limits of the United States and the District of Columbia found that about 630,300 of those persons were eligible to vote on the basis of age, citizenship, and legal residence for voting. Of the 630,300, approximately 3.7 percent were in the 18-20 age group; 5.9 percent were 21-24; 21.1 percent were 25-34; 24 percent were 35-44; 19.5 percent were 45-54; 14.1 percent were 55-64; and 11.7 percent were 65 or older.

In the same non-Federally employed civilian group overseas, approximately 151,000 cast their ballots. Six and four-tenths percent of those who voted were in the 18-20 age group; 11.5 percent were 21-24; 22.4 percent were 25-34; 24.5 percent were 35-44; 17.2 percent were 45-54; 12.5 percent were 55-64; and 5.5 percent were 65 or older.

In 1972, an estimated four million U.S. citizens, including Armed Forces members, were absent from their home States and home polling places at the time of the general election. This absentee-voter group made up about 3.87 percent of the total U.S. population eligible to vote on November 7.

COMMANDERS DIGEST

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